

City CONNECTION

MORGAN HILL NEWS

A Publication of The City of Morgan Hill

July 2009



**Steve Caballero at the
Skate Park Grand Opening**
photos by Steve Potwin



WWW.MORGANHILL.CA.GOV



City of Morgan Hill
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill
408-779-7271

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Tate	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore Marby Lee	779-7259
Councilmember Larry Carr	779-7259
Councilmember Marilyn Librers	779-7259
Councilmember Greg Sellers	779-7259
City Clerk Irma Torrez	779-7259
City Treasurer Michael Roorda	778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager **J. Edward Tewes**
City Attorney **Danny Wan**
Assistant to the City Manager/
Human Resources Director **Brian Stott**
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director **Garrett Toy**
Community Development Director **Kathy Molloy Previsich**
Interim Finance Director **Kevin Ripper**
Police Chief **Bruce Cumming**
Public Works Director **Jim Ashcraft**
Recreation and Community
Services Director **Steve Rymer**

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Aquatics Center	782-2134
Business Assistance and Housing Services	776-7373
Centennial Recreation Center	782-2128
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community and Cultural Center	782-0008
Emergency Services/Disaster Preparedness	776-7310
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Graffiti Hotline	776-8985
Illegal Dumping Hotline	776-7337
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use/Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Water	779-7221
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117

City Website: www.morganhill.ca.gov

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Connection are welcome.
Contact the editor Brian Stott at 779-7271 or brian.stott@morganhill.ca.gov. City Connection is published by the City of Morgan Hill.



FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES UPDATE

The City of Morgan Hill is actively involved in studying opportunities to work collaboratively with the City of Gilroy and Santa Clara County for the future delivery of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Currently, the City contracts with Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District to deliver these service, the City of Gilroy has its own Fire Department, and San Martin and unincorporated Santa Clara County are served by the South Santa Clara Fire Protection District whose services are provided by Cal Fire. All of these agencies are working together to determine the benefits of regionalization in achieving enhanced and more efficient services. The first step in this effort is to evaluate the region's existing and future fire station locations. This step is scheduled to be concluded by September 2009. It is the City's goal to work in a unified manner with these agencies to ensure the region's residents receive the highest level of services in a cost-effective manner. If you have further questions about the study or Fire/EMS services, please contact Steve Rymer at 408-779-7271 or steve.rymer@morganhill.ca.gov.

Revised Alarm Ordinance

The City Council recently adopted the revised Burglary and Robbery Alarm Ordinance. This ordinance was adopted to help reduce false alarm calls and to establish a method to maintain an accurate database of alarm subscribers in order to more effectively contact responsible persons when their alarm(s) are activated.



The Police Department responds to over 1000 alarm calls per year. 99% of those alarm calls are false alarms where the alarm is activated for any number of reasons ranging from the weather to human error. The revised ordinance requires alarm companies to verify the alarm signal and attempt to contact the responsible person prior to requesting police service. Another way the ordinance will reduce the number of false alarm calls is through more frequent charging of alarm subscribers for false alarm responses. Presently, the Police Department charges subscribers for any false alarm response in excess of one per quarter; the new ordinance will allow for one free false alarm response per calendar year. Although this may mean increased fees for some residents and business owners, the goal is to decrease the number of alarm responses so that officers can give more attention to community policing and crime prevention.

Another change in the new ordinance is the addition of an Alarm Registration Fee. The \$50.00 fee will pay for staff time to develop and maintain a current database of alarm subscribers. Police Dispatchers will be able to use the database

to contact responsible parties for alarmed buildings in the event of a false alarm that is malfunctioning or if the building was left unsecured. In these situations, officers are currently either at the mercy of the alarm company to contact the owner, find a creative solution to secure the building, or leave it unsecured.

If someone has questions or concerns about the revised ordinance they are encouraged to contact Commander David Swing at 408/776-7314 or via e-mail at david.swing@morganhill.ca.gov.

Utility Billing offers On Line account access and payment processing

City water and sewer customers will soon be able to view, print and pay their utility bill on-line. Visiting the City's website will put your utility account information at your fingertips. You can sign up for e-billing, set up automatic payment arrangements, view and print your current bill, track your usage and verify previous on line payments.

Serving our customers is our number one priority. Electronic billing and payment processing have been developed with you in mind. Signing up is easy. Check the city's website www.morganhill.ca.gov/billing. Access to your account is expected to be available by the end of July 2009.

Contact our utility billing department for further information at (408) 779-7221. Thank you for being a valued customer of the City of Morgan Hill.

City Council Adopts

On June 17, 2009 the City Council and Redevelopment Agency adopted the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Operating and Capital Improvement Program budgets. Prior to this passage, a public hearing was held on June 3rd and a budget workshop on June 5th which provided a forum for citizen input and Council discussion.

The Fiscal Year 2009-10 Adopted Budget of \$145.1 million is a decrease of \$7.5 million from the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Adopted Budget. The General Fund, which is supported by general taxes, funds services including police, fire, recreation, parks maintenance and general administration. In FY 2009-10 the General Fund will spend \$27.9 million while utilizing \$1.5 million in reserves.

When the City adopted the FY 09-10 budget, the State of California continued to wrestle with its own \$24 billion deficit. As in previous years, the State is looking to local government resources to address financial woes. The State budget fixes could reduce the amount of revenue available for local governments. Potential State takeaways include the borrowing of local property taxes, elimination of local highway users tax allocations (gasoline tax), and reductions in Redevelopment Agency (RDA) tax increment revenue. Any taking of local revenues by the State will have a significant impact on the ability of the General Fund to sustain current service

levels, and on the RDA to implement its portion of the Capital Improvement Program.

In response to lower property and sales tax revenues, in January 2009 the City Council adopted an aggressive Budget Reduction Strategy which reduced annual spending by approximately \$2 million. Major components of the Budget Reduction Strategy included:

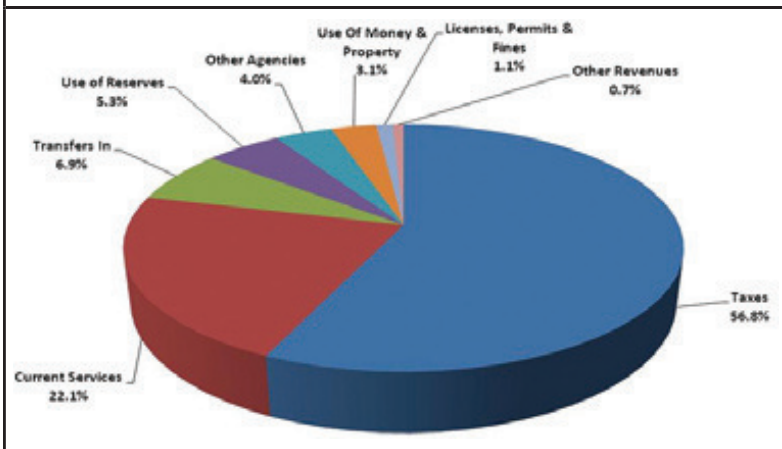
- ***Elimination of 10.5 full time positions***
- ***Re-negotiating all contracts with represented labor groups to reduce wage increases***
- ***Elimination of management cost of living adjustments (COLA's)***
- ***Reductions in the fire services contract with the Santa Clara County Fire Department***
- ***Reductions in Environmental Programs operations***

These reductions were made in order to comply with the City Council's Sustainable Budget Strategy, however in the following months as tax revenue continued to decline, additional reductions were required and are reflected in the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget. These reductions include:

- ***Leaving vacant four public safety positions including two police officers***
- ***One-time use of reserves from the General and Building Maintenance Funds***
- ***Deferment of vehicle replacement purchases***
- ***Reclassification of various positions to generate personnel cost savings***

These budget reductions accompanied with prudent fiscal decisions during periods of economic growth have positioned the City of Morgan Hill to carefully manage a response to the down economy.

The General Fund receives revenue from property taxes, sales taxes, transient occupancy taxes, and other miscellaneous sources. In Fiscal Year 2009-10, the City projects \$27.9 million in revenue including a one-time use of \$1.5 million in General Fund Reserves.



FY 2009-10 Budget

A significant component of the FY 09-10 Adopted Budget is the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP budget consists of approximately \$54.6 million in projects. The majority of capital improvement projects will be located within the redevelopment area and will be funded through a prior redevelopment agency bond issuance and tax increment revenue.

Major projects in the CIP include:

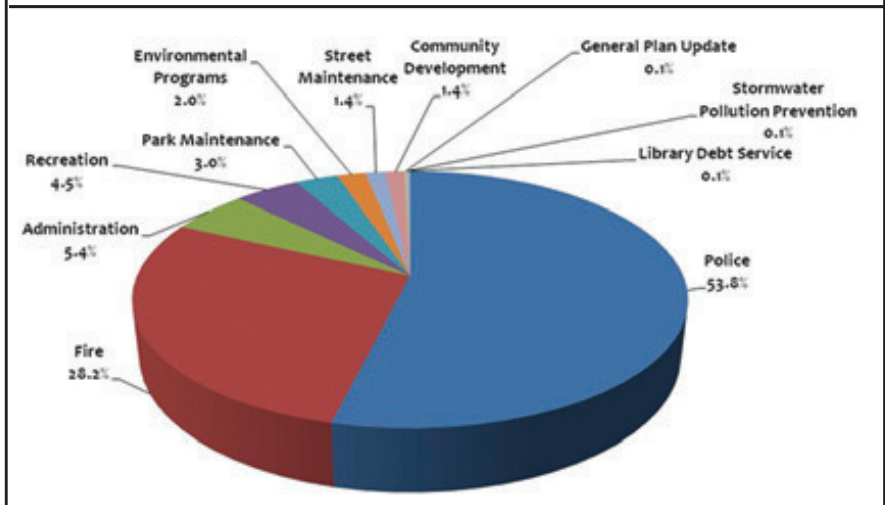
- *Centennial Recreation Center Fitness Area expansion*
- *West Little Llagas Creek drainage improvements*
- *Butterfield detention basin*
- *West Dunne widening*
- *Highway 101/Tenant interchange*
- *Downtown parking improvements*

These projects, many of which will extend beyond the current fiscal year, are part of the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Program. The five year program and description of all projects can be viewed as part of the adopted budget document.

A copy of the adopted budget is available for review at City Hall, the Morgan Hill Library, the Development Services Center and on the City's website at www.morganhill.ca.gov/budget. Questions concerning the City's Budget may be directed to the Finance Department at (408) 779-7237.

You can see the latest adopted five-year CIP by visiting the City of Morgan Hill web page at www.morganhill.ca.gov/budget.

The City's General Fund will expend \$27.2 million. Excluding grants and other restricted revenue, 82% of the General Fund will be spent on public safety.



Bond Rating Upgrade

This spring a bond rating agency upgraded by two notches its credit rating for the City. Standard & Poor's raised its assessment of the City's creditworthiness from A+ all the way to AA. So, the next time the City issues bonds, the interest rate is likely to be lower than it would have been under the old rating. Investors will place more confidence in the City's financial stability and willingness to pay. They will demand a lower interest rate, thereby reducing the City's borrowing costs.

The analysis from Standard & Poor's cited the City's prompt budgetary response to the recent collapse in General Fund revenues, and its adherence to a five-year budget plan, as the main reasons for the rating upgrade.

This AA rating applies to City obligations backed by the City Council's pledge to appropriate debt service payments in each year's budget. If the City ever were to issue general obligation bonds, backed by the full faith and credit of the City, the rating would probably be AA+, just one notch shy of the coveted AAA.

City Council Adopts Varied Capitol Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 2009-10

The City Council annually adopts a five-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) when they approve the operating budget for the City. On June 17th of this year the Council adopted the City's operating budget for FY 2009/10 and the five-year CIP for fiscal years 2009/10 through 2013/14. A capital improvement program is the primary tool that local governments use to plan for major capital projects and acquisitions. It identifies major capital needs over a multiyear forecast period. The five-year span of the program is fairly typical for cities and allows for the City to:

- **Identify the capital project and acquisition needs in the near future**
- **Calculate the cost or expenditure estimates for those needs**
- **Identify probable sources of financing**
- **Evaluate, prioritize, and schedule projects and acquisitions**
- **Forecast the likely impacts of the projects on the City's operating budget**

The CIP that was just adopted by the City Council is a \$165 Million program over the entire five years. For the upcoming 2009/10 fiscal year the program is just under \$55 Million. The types of projects vary from parks facilities, such as the new Skate Park, to water and sewer system upgrades to street and parking projects. The City of Morgan Hill is fortunate to have a variety of stable funding sources to address its many municipal infrastructure needs.

For this next fiscal year, Morgan Hill residents will see some very visible aspects of the CIP program under construction. Notable among these are the Third Street Promenade project in the downtown, the widening of the Tennant Avenue/Hwy 101 Interchange, the E. Dunne Avenue overlay project, and the Centennial Recreation Center expansion. While the construction activity can be a nuisance, we ask that you keep in mind that these are investments in our community and the City is fortunate to have the resources to bring these improvements and create the jobs that come with them.

HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses are critical to the economy and employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product, and create 60 to 80 percent of the net new jobs annually in the U.S. Small businesses are essential to the local economy because they are innovative, flexible, and strongly tied to the community. The City's Business Assistance and Housing Services Department is reaching out to small businesses and entrepreneurs as part of its Small Business Ombudsman program. Resources and assistance available include information on starting a business, permitting requirements, help with finding a business location, commercial rehab loans, and facade grants. If you are thinking of starting a new business in Morgan Hill, a good place to start is the City's web site www.morganhill.ca.gov. Under "Doing Business" you will find links to information on business formation, employer requirements, tax considerations, and how to develop a business plan - look for "Tools for Business Success". The web site also offers access to a site selection tool powered by Loopnet.

Can't find what you're looking for? Stop by the City's Development Services Center at 17575 Peak Avenue or call (408) 778-6480 for further assistance.

RESOURCES FOR JOB SEEKERS

Assistance for job seekers and employers in Santa Clara County is available through Work2future. In collaboration with business, federal, state and local government agencies, the Work2future Network programs provide comprehensive workforce development services to increase employment, job retention and economic development in our local communities. Core services include outreach and orientation to the One-Stop Career Centers, job vacancy listings, initial assessment of skill levels, aptitudes, and abilities, employment search and placement assistance, workshops, occupational trends, job matching, job fairs, employer presentations and targeted recruitments, labor market information, access to the career centers services, information on the availability of supportive services such as child care and transportation and much more...

Access to these services is available in Morgan Hill via the "Mobile One-Stop", which visits the Community and Cultural Center at 17000 Monterey Road each Tuesday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact

Work2future at (408) 794-1100 or visit their web site www.work2future.biz

First-Time Homeownership Opportunities in Morgan Hill!

Are you a first time homebuyer looking to purchase a home in Morgan Hill?

The City is pleased to offer 2 unique home buying opportunities for first time homebuyers!

I. Below Market Rate Ownership Program

The City's Below Market Rate (BMR) Homebuyer Program links qualified buyers with affordably priced single family and duet style homes with up to 4-bedrooms. Prices start in the mid \$300,000's. Currently both new homes and resales are available in great neighborhoods throughout the City. Homebuyers must meet the program's income guidelines and obtain their own fixed-rate financing.

Qualifying first time buyers can take advantage of up to \$18,000 of Federal and State Tax credits so don't miss out on this great opportunity to own your own home! Orientations for the BMR Program are held regularly. Please contact the Business Assistance and Housing Services Department at (408) 778-6480 or email sheryll.bejarano@morganhill.ca.gov or teresa.crue@morganhill.ca.gov for more information or to register for an orientation. Please visit www.morganhill.ca.gov for information.



Madrone Plaza Townhomes

II. Madrone Plaza – Affordable Ownership Townhomes

South County Housing, a leading affordable housing developer, in partnership with the City is pleased to offer homes for sale at Madrone Plaza. Located on the corner of Cochrane and Jarvis Roads, Madrone Plaza blends both affordable and market rate homes in a unique development that offers first-time homebuyers an opportunity to purchase 1, 2 and 3 bedroom craftsman style townhomes. Madrone Plaza features plenty of amenities for homeowners including a park, barbeque area, swimming pool, pedestrian paths, paseos, a club house and basket ball and bocce ball courts. Down payment assistance is also available to qualified buyers.

First time home buyers can also take advantage of up to \$18,000 of Federal and State Tax credits for Madrone Plaza. Orientations for Madrone Plaza are also scheduled regularly. Please call South County Housing at 408-843-9271 or 408-779-8231 or visit www.madroneplaza.info for more information.



Typical Home offered through BMR Program



The spectacular Third Street Promenade moves into the third and final phase of construction, with completion expected by the end of 2009. The project is made possible through a State grant of \$1.7 million that covers over 40% of the total construction cost. This 80-foot wide street will be transformed into a pedestrian-friendly thoroughfare with wide sidewalks, landscaping, benches, and a unique plaza area. It will serve as the community's central meeting place in the downtown, and as a pedestrian connection for Downtown's picturesque restaurants and unique shops and the new County Courthouse as well the Caltrain Depot.

To create a "promenade" feeling, the street cross-section is flush with the 23- and 18-foot sidewalks, making it suitable for outdoor dining and retail displays. It includes a central plaza area for concerts and staging of other events. Instead of the traditional asphalt roadway and concrete curb and gutter, this 580-foot long street surface will use an attractive variety of colorful, patterned interlocking pavers.

One-lane of traffic in each direction and 25 parallel parking spaces will remain, and ample nearby parking will be provided. The street design gives flexibility for four "closure options" depending upon the size of an event such as a festival, music concert, downtown merchants' function, and other activities.

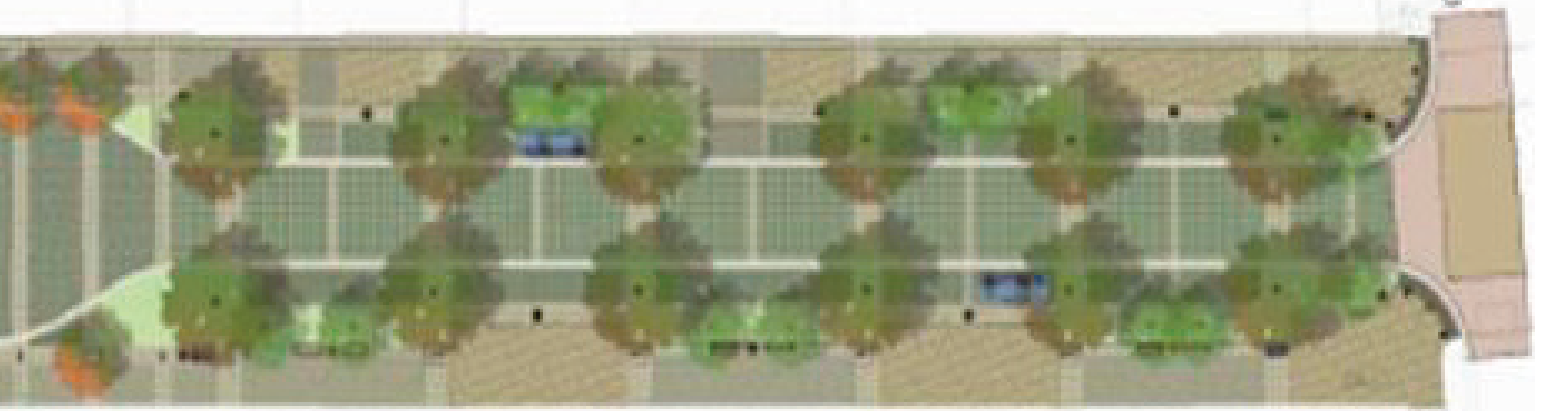


The Granada Theater marquee may once again light up Monterey Road in downtown Morgan Hill – with the Granada perhaps relocated next to the new Fuzia Restaurant as a 4-screen cinema on the second floor of a 3-story building at what is now Royal Clothiers (formerly Christopher Travel) and the pocket park. This is one concept being considered. The marquee, a distinctive feature of the downtown scene, will remain a prominent historical element of the theater. A conceptual design considered by the City Council on June 3rd envisions ground retail space, and plans call for incorporating much of the look and feel of the current Granada entry.

The City is in negotiations with the owner of CineLux Theaters (the Tennant Station cinemas) for operating the new Granada. Negotiations include agreement on the necessary arrangements, and confirming the feasibility of an interim re-opening of the existing Granada while the new theater/retail center is constructed.

This second-story theater concept combining retail and entertainment has proven successful in other communities and offers some ideas for a range of concepts for the Granada.

Downtown Lights Up with Granada Revitalization, Pedestrian-friendly Third Street Promenade



WHAT'S HAPPENED / WHAT'S COMING

CITY COUNCIL:

- Jan 09 – Joint Implementation Workshop w/ Planning Commission for consultant team's presentation of capacity of potential downtown development, consistent with new Downtown Specific Plan. Review focused on 6 "opportunity sites": 3 City-owned properties (2 on Monterey plus the Caltrain parking lot), and 3 privately-owned properties (Sunsweet site, Depot Center/Booksmart and 45 E. Third Street).
- Feb 09 – Endorsed 10-point implementation program; added an 11th item: pursuing possibility of re-opening existing Granada Theater on interim basis.
- May 09 – Directed staff to work to reach agreement with CineLux Theaters as operator of new building, as well as temporarily re-opening existing Granada on interim basis.
- Jun-Aug - Series of public/Planning Commission meetings will culminate with City Council's consideration in October of Downtown Specific Plan (SP) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Along with Measure A (approved by voters in May), the SP and EIR complete the regulatory framework for downtown development.

NEW & EXPANDING BUSINESSES:

- Fuzia Restaurant, 17340 Monterey Road
- RicaToni's Deli, 17385 Monterey Road
- The Cupcake Shop, 17385-B Monterey Road
- Maurizio's Mangia La Pizza, 17500 Depot Street
- The Jewel Box Jewelers, 17190 Monterey Road
- This Organik Life, 17400 Monterey St. #1-D
- Ragoots expansion - Meritage Room
- Santa Clara County Courthouse opened in April



For more information go to the City of Morgan Hill web site, and click on SPOTLIGHT – www.morganhill.ca.gov/downtown

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CONSERVE ENERGY, RESOURCES AND MONEY?

If you are a Morgan Hill resident, you are eligible to participate in this exciting program that will save you money, leave you feeling 5,000 pounds lighter, and maintain a sustainable future for Morgan Hill. For a limited time, participants are also eligible for a free home energy audit (\$300-\$600 value.) The energy audits include testing the building envelope and ducts for air leakage and include up to \$150 in free energy-saving devices like lights and weatherstripping. To date, Carbon Diet Clubs have helped 56 Morgan Hill households save money and reduce their energy consumption, resulting in a 324,000 pound greenhouse gas reduction.

How does a Carbon Diet Club work?

A Carbon Diet Club is made up of 5 or more households that work as a team for one month. The team will meet only three times during the participation month.

Meeting 1 - In the first meeting you will receive a FREE toolkit that will enable you to meet your conservation goals that includes the Low Carbon Diet workbook, shower timers, reusable bags and much more.

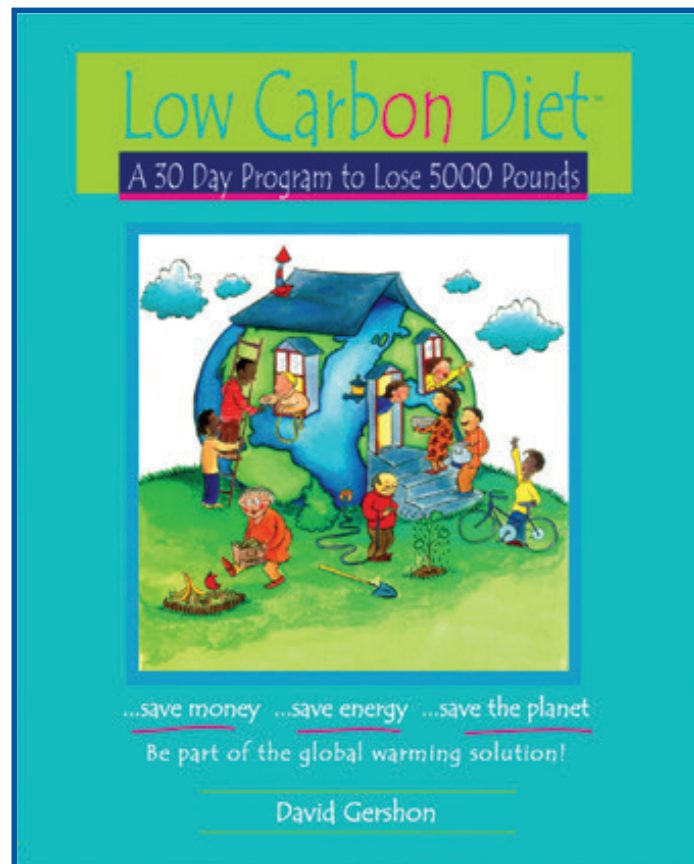
Meeting 2 - Your team will discuss their carbon footprints, personal conservation plan, and share progress with the first half of the workbook, "making comfortable lifestyle changes."

Meeting 3 (final meeting) - Participants will discuss their progress with the second half of the workbook, "making your home more energy efficient." A team tally will be taken to add to the community greenhouse gas reduction goal! You will now be eligible to receive the FREE home energy analysis.

JOIN A 30 DAY CARBON DIET CLUB!

How to participate?

Carbon Diet Clubs are held monthly at the Development Services Center. You can also organize your friends, neighbors or other groups to form a Carbon Diet Club to meet at a convenient location and time. Contact Rebecca Fotu in Environmental Programs at 778-6480 or rebecca.fotu@morganhill.ca.gov to find out when the next Club will begin or to form your own team.





We Can Do It Morgan Hill! **Beat The Drought 2009.**

We have the tools you need to help you team up with the City of Morgan Hill to beat the drought in 2009!

Together, we need to reduce water use by 15%.

Step One – Know Your Water

Do you really know how water is consumed in your home? Why not schedule a free Water-Wise House Call to identify and assess the specific things you can do to save water both inside and outside your home? Call 1.800.548.1882 to find out more.

Step Two – Know Your Rebates

Installing water-efficient appliances and landscapes not only saves lots of water, they can also qualify you for lots of rebates. Call the water conservation hotline at 265.2607 x2554 or browse save20gallons.org for more information.

Step Three – Know Your Water Laws

An ordinance with new restrictions has been passed by the City Council and will go a long way toward meeting our conservation goals. The following rules are in place:

- Irrigation watering should occur only after 5PM or before 9AM
- Irrigation should not occur on Mondays and Thursdays
- Washing down driveways and sidewalks is prohibited except to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards
- Irrigation watering is limited to 15 minutes a day per irrigation station
- Water leaks and breaks must be fixed within three days
- Runoff from irrigation must not flow excessively onto the sidewalk, street, etc.

At this time, the City is **not** imposing water rationing or raising water rates. Let's work together, Morgan Hill, to Beat The Drought.

You can reach us at 778.6480 or environ@morganhill.ca.gov if you would like a copy of the recently adopted ordinance or more water conservation information.

save20gallons.org

CITY BEAUTIFICATION DAY

2009



More than one hundred residents turned out on Saturday May 16 for City Beautification Day volunteer events in various City parks, streets and creeks. Thanks to the concentrated work of the volunteers, each of the areas was left cleaner and more beautiful than before. In spite of the warm weather, volunteers worked energetically all morning and accomplished a lot of productive work. Then at noon all volunteers were treated to a BBQ lunch at the Civic Center, courtesy of the City and the Kiwanis Club.

Beautification Day is an annual city event held on the third Saturday in May. Everyone is welcome to participate. Each year activities are scheduled for different locations. This year the project locations were at Mill Creek, Paradise Park, Diana Park, Civic Center, also litter removal from roadsides near the civic center and downtown and from West Little Llagas Creek.

STREETS CLEANUP

Several groups of Sobrato High School students picked up litter from Main Avenue, West Dunne Avenue and Monterey Road. The bags of litter they collected filled a pickup truck to the roof rack.

CREEK CLEANUP

A group of boy scouts also removed a load of trash and debris from a section of West Little Llagas Creek.

MILL CREEK

At Mill Creek, neighborhood residents turned out to re-paint the area sign, plant flowering groundcover in the median and road frontage planting beds, spread play area wood fiber in the tot lots, weed, and pick up litter.

CIVIC CENTER

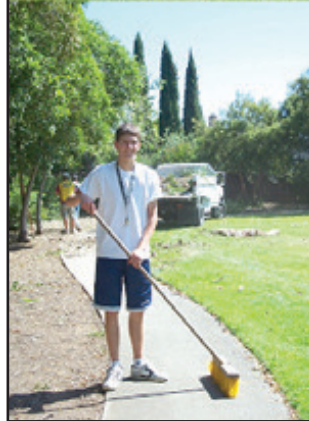
A big group of volunteers from the Morgan Hill Bible Church as well as individual volunteers worked at Civic Center on landscape cleanup. They removed lots of weeds and spread wood chip mulch on the Peak Avenue landscape frontage and along the walkway leading from Peak to City Hall.

PARADISE PARK

A large group of volunteers from the Latter Day Saints Church made a big impact at Paradise Park and the adjacent pathways. Volunteers trimmed hedges, weeded, cleaned up and spread play area wood fiber in the tot lot.

DIANA PARK

At Diana Park another large and energetic group from the Latter Day Saints Church cleaned the park and pathway. Volunteers raked leaves, weeded, picked up litter, trimmed, painted over graffiti and spread play area wood fiber in the tot lot.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteers of all abilities, individuals and groups, are welcome to help make Morgan Hill a cleaner greener community. If you are interested in volunteering in the city parks or road side right of way please contact Anne Beale, Morgan Hill Public Works Operation at (408) 776-7333.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Public Works Day

On Wednesday, May 20, 2009 the City of Morgan Hill Public Works Department celebrated Public Works Week by having a "Public Works Day". The event was held at Nordstrom Park with over 400 students and teachers attending. Activities included learning about how everyone can help in reducing their "thumbprint", see how worms are beneficial to the soil and how mulch is a good ground cover. They were also given a tour around the butterfly garden in the northeast end of the Park to see how the ladybugs help the environment.

Taking the "thumbprint" quiz



Getting a close look at ladybugs

The kids then got to see the battle of the backhoes between Grave Digger and Scorpion to see which backhoe can put 4 basketballs in a barrel first.



Grave Digger vs Scorpion

They were also taken on a tour through Nordstrom Well where they learned where their water comes from and what it takes to get to their house.

Nordstrom Well tour



After the tour they were lead out to the front of the building where they were then shown how the water gets to their house through pipes and copper services. Of course no tour would be complete if they couldn't experience a little water flying through the air at them. Most of them did their best to catch the water in their hard hats but most just ran around and kept coming back for more.



Trying to catch the water



Touching the "frozen" pipe

The kids were also shown how the Sewer Division uses a camera to find problems in the sewer line. The kids were fascinated that you could get to watch TV at work.



After that they were given a water conservation quiz. This also included a race to see which group could get the most water in a bucket in 30 seconds.



Water conservation quiz



The race is on



I think the hard hats have it by a drop